ABSTRACT

A shared resources service processor facilitates messaging
between line processors and provides a single point of contact
5 for a user interfacing with line processor(s), for example in a
storage system interface. Shared memory is divided into
"mailboxes" that are used to communicate between the line
processors and the service processor. The service processor
issues a system management interrupt to any or all of the line
10 processors. This interrupt indicates to the line processor(s)
that it should go out to the shared memory and read its
respective mailbox. In operation, the service processor can
deliver a message, i.e. command, to a line processor's mailbox,
for example to tell a line processor to go off-line or on-line.
15 The service processor will write the command into the mailbox and
then assert the system management interrupt on the appropriate
line processor that it wants to read the mailbox. The line
processor receiving the interrupt will take the interrupt vector,
read the mailbox, interpret the command and deliver the
20 appropriate response to the mailbox.

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